

The implementation date for this protocol for importing Live Fish, Fertilized Eggs, and Gametes Susceptible to Spring Viremia of Carp into the United States is October 4, 2004. Please submit comments on this import protocol to Dr. Freeda Isaac, DVM, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import/Export, USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services, 4700 River Road Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 10737-1238 or E-mail address: Freeda.E.Isaac@aphis.usda.gov.

**PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO THE UNITED STATES OF
LIVE FISH, FERTILIZED EGGS, AND GAMETES SUSCEPTIBLE TO
SPRING VIREMIA OF CARP (SVC)**

1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following fish species are considered to be susceptible to spring viremia of carp (SVC) and would need to meet the import requirements of this protocol: common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*), crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), and sheatfish (*Silurus glanis*). Fish species that are not listed above are exempt from the specific import requirements indicated in this protocol.

Further information is available by contacting:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
National Center for Import and Export, Unit 40
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: 301-734-3277
Fax: 301-734-8226
Web site: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie>

1.1 Importation must be accompanied by an official bilingual health certificate stating that all certifications and tests required in this protocol were performed. The health certificate must be signed by either a veterinarian or a certifying official of the competent authority of the exporting country, who must attest to the veracity of the statements in the certificate.

1.2 The import requirements in this protocol can be modified as deemed appropriate if the Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services (VS), determines that such modification is necessary to prevent the dissemination of any communicable disease.

2 HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS AND TESTING

Acceptable options for demonstrating that the live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes to be exported to the United States are free from SVC are indicated below.

2.1 The exporting country can demonstrate that it is free of SVC according to the current Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Aquatic Animal Health Code Chapter 2.1.4., Article 2.1.4.2, and that, as far as can be determined, the live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes originate from an area or farms found to be free of all infectious and communicable disease and exposure thereto.

OR

2.2 The country can demonstrate that the live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes originate from premises that are in an SVC-free zone according to the current OIE Code Chapter 2.1.4., Article 2.1.4.3, or from an SVC-free aquaculture establishment as described in Article 2.1.4.4, and that, as far as can be determined, the live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes originate from an area or farms found to be free of infectious and communicable disease and exposure thereto.

OR

2.3 If the exporting country cannot certify to statements 2.1 or 2.2 above, then all of the certification and testing requirements described below in 2.3.1 through 2.3.6 must be met.

2.3.1 The live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes must originate from premises that have tested negative by virus isolation for SVC twice a year for 2 consecutive years. The sample size must be sufficient to detect, with a 95% confidence level, a 2% prevalence level of infection in the source fish population.

2.3.2 If these live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes do not originate from the country of export, then they must originate from a country or zone designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as free from SVC.

2.3.3 The certifying official of the competent authority must conduct ongoing inspections and surveillance of the farm or area of origin within 6 months before the date of export and must find the area to be free of evidence of infectious and communicable disease, as far as can be determined, and exposure thereto.

2.3.4 The live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes to be exported must originate on premises supplied by water from first-use spring water; spring water without fish; ozone or ultraviolet-treated surface water; well water; or bore-hole water. The water source must be free of wild carp and any other SVC-susceptible species. Springs may not be connected to a watercourse containing fish unless a natural or artificial barrier prevents

the migration of fish from lower stretches of the waterway into the aquaculture establishment or its water supply.

2.3.5 The sample size should provide for a 95% confidence level to detect a 2% prevalence level of disease in the source fish population (typically 150 fish); at least 30 fish should be tested twice per year after 2 years of negative testing. Samples must be collected from premises when water temperatures are between 13°C and 20°C (or if the farm uses a geothermal water source and samples must be collected twice a year, during the month when historically the coldest annual temperatures are experienced). Fish sampled must be less than 1 year of age. Surveillance tests conducted prior to export to the United States include virus isolation, which must be conducted in cell lines susceptible to SVC virus such as *Epithelioma papulosum cyprini* (EPC) or fathead minnow (FHM) cell cultures. Cultures must be incubated at 15°C to 25°C with at least two serial passages and evaluation of the cell culture for cytopathic effects at a minimum of 7 days after each passage.

2.3.6 Surveillance samples must also be tested with a virus neutralization test with SVC antiserum or by RT-PCR for confirmation of viral cytopathic effect (CPE) tests using published methodology.

3 TRANSPORTATION

3.1 The live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes must be moved to the port of embarkation in new or cleaned and disinfected containers. If the shipping containers are not new, they must be cleaned and disinfected prior to packaging under the supervision of the veterinarian or certifying official of the competent authority. This can be certified to in the health certificate or by a separate cleaning and disinfecting (C&D) certificate accompanying the shipment.

3.2 The required health certificate and the C&D certificate must accompany the qualifying live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes to the U.S. port of entry.

4 U.S. PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 The import shipment of live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes will be inspected at the first port of entry into the United States in order to verify that the shipment is accompanied by the required health certificate and C&D certificate. Inspections may be subject to user fees.

4.2 Health certificates will be considered valid for 30 days from the date of endorsement by the veterinarian or certifying official of the competent authority.